

Dear Tina,

Consultation: APP/20/00276 HRA & Appropriate Assessment - COU, conversion & extensions, including first floor addition to block B, of existing garage blocks to create 2x3 bedroom detached dwellings with associated car parking, bin & bike storage, etc. Garage Blocks, Willowdene Close, Havant

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the above HRA and AA.

Natural England notes that your authority, as competent authority, has undertaken an appropriate assessment of the proposal in accordance with Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended). Natural England is a statutory consultee on the appropriate assessment stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process, and a competent authority should have regard to Natural England's advice.

Your appropriate assessment concludes that your authority is able to ascertain that the proposal will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any of the sites in question. Having considered the assessment, and the measures proposed to mitigate for any adverse effects, it is the advice of Natural England that we concur with the conclusion of the HRA, provided all mitigation measures are adequately secured with any permission.

Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy – no objection subject to mitigation

Since this application will result in a net increase in residential accommodation, impacts to the coastal Special Protection Area(s) and Ramsar site(s) may result from increased recreational pressure. Havant Borough Council has measures in place to manage these potential impacts through the agreed strategic solution which we consider to be ecologically sound.

Subject to the appropriate financial contribution being secured, Natural England is satisfied that the proposal will mitigate against the potential recreational impacts of the development on the site(s). It is Natural England's view that the Solent Mitigation Recreation Strategy Contribution adequately mitigates the effects of the development on potential recreational impacts on the designated sites.

Nutrient Neutrality – no objection subject to mitigation

Natural England is aware that your authority has adopted an interim strategy using Grampian conditions to address nutrient impacts from developments currently in the planning system and we have been working with the Council to develop this approach. It is noted that the mitigation would be secured through a Grampian condition, requiring the mitigation package to be agreed, provided to the Council and implemented prior to the occupation of the development.

Your appropriate assessment concludes that your authority is able to ascertain that the proposal will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any of the sites in question. With regard to deterioration of the water environment, it is noted that the approach to address the positive nitrogen budget for this development is to offset against the interim strategy, with measures to ensure this approach can be adequately secured and accounted for. For completeness, Natural England advise your authority to detail the nitrogen budget requiring mitigation within the HRA.

It is Natural England's view that in this case, provided the Council as competent authority, is satisfied that the approach will ensure the proposal is nutrient neutral and the necessary measures can be fully secured; Natural England raises no further concerns.

Please consult Natural England on the discharge of the Grampian condition.

If you have any queries relating to this advice, please contact me on the number below.

Kind regards,

Milena Petrovic

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